

Post 1619 have accomplished and thank them for their dedication to our veterans. Those who serve deserve the respect of a grateful nation, and the hard work of Post 1619 represents an important step in the right direction.

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES  
HARRELL, JR.

**HON. PATRICK MEEHAN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2017*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Mr. James Harrell, Jr. of Delaware County, Pennsylvania, for his service in the United States Navy and his continued service at home with the Veterans of Foreign War post in Norwood, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Harrell served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. Upon returning home, he committed to selflessly serve his community and fellow veterans. He joined VFW Post 7213 of Norwood and eventually became Commander of the Post after holding several leadership positions with the organization.

In 2011, Mr. Harrell helped create the Interboro School District Memorial Day Contest to better connect students and veterans. Additionally, he helped implement the annual Flag-In Ceremony, where students place flags on the graves of over 5,000 veterans at Holy Cross Cemetery in our district. Mr. Harrell continues to dedicate his life to the service of our nation and even manages to help young people recognize the sacrifice that so many Americans have made for our country.

I commend Mr. James Harrell, Jr. for his honorable service to our country and I thank him for his continued effort to bring together his community to honor our country's veterans.

SECURING ELECTRONIC RECORDS  
FOR VETERANS' EASE ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 3634, the Securing Electronic Records for Veterans' Ease (SERVE) Act of 2017. This is an important piece of legislation and I am proud to support it.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill is an educational benefit program for veterans who have courageously served our country since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Through this bill, tuition and fee payments, as well as a monthly housing allowance, are paid to schools on behalf of veterans based on the length of their period of active duty. H.R. 3634 directs the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide these veterans with verification of the amount of their monthly housing stipend. This verification would also be available online in the same way that the VA provides information about other benefits it offers.

This bill is the simplest way to clarify a living expense for those who have sacrificed for their country. Since 2009, this program has

provided benefits to over 773,000 veterans and their family members, providing over \$20 billion in benefits. As a representative from Georgia, a state that hosts a number of military bases, supporting this bill is the least I can do to make life easier for veterans and their family members who are transitioning to life after active duty.

TRIBUTE TO DR. TAKASHI  
KITAMURA

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2017*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. Takashi Kitamura, assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Texas Southwestern. On November 12, 2017, Dr. Kitamura received the Peter and Patricia Gruber International Research Award, from the Society for Neuroscience. Supported by The Gruber Foundation, the award recognizes young neuroscientists for outstanding research and educational pursuit in an international setting.

Dr. Kitamura has made three major contributions in his career to date. First, he demonstrated that there are two types of excitatory neurons in layer II of the entorhinal cortex, "island cells" and "ocean cells," both of which he named, and that pyramidal island neurons cluster in a series of bulblike structures while stellate ocean cells surround the structures. Second, in collaboration with another graduate student, he determined the function of each cell type, revealing island cells to control timing and navigation and ocean cells to encode static location. Third, he identified engrams and circuits crucial for systems consolidation of memory, which leads to the formation of long-term memories in the neocortex.

Dr. Takashi Kitamura earned his doctorate in biology at Kyushu University in Japan. His thesis, "Molecular Mechanisms of Adult Hippocampal Neurogenesis," sought to identify the role of entorhinal hippocampal neuronal circuits in the formation of episodic memory and revealed important insight that formed the basis for his postdoctoral research at the Mitsubishi-Kagaku Institute as well as further research at the Picower Institute for Learning and Memory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Dr. Kitamura's work is significant because it contributes significantly to the federally-funded research investment in my congressional district.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Dr. Kitamura. With distinguished academicians work like Dr. Kitamura, we will have better understanding of cognitive impairments and Alzheimer's disease.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2017*

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, my vote was not recorded because I was traveling with the

Secretary of the Navy. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 622.

IN RECOGNITION OF FREDERICK  
M. LYNCH

**HON. PATRICK MEEHAN**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2017*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Mr. Frederick M. Lynch of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania for his military service in the U.S. Air Force, and continued service in his community, particularly his efforts to improve his community's relationship with their law enforcement.

While in the Air Force, Mr. Lynch served in the Honor Guard and as a Security Specialist. Following his service he returned home to North Wales, Pennsylvania with a commitment to continue serving the public.

After his decision to dedicate his life to public service, Mr. Lynch enrolled in and graduated from Upper Gwynedd Township's Police Academy. After entering the force, Mr. Lynch realized he had found his calling. He particularly enjoyed his work to help bring closer his community and their law enforcement.

This effort took many forms. He became a leader at the Upper Gwynedd Junior Police Academy where he trained young officers for twenty-one years. He also taught the Drug Abuse Resistance Education, or DARE, program in local schools, expanding the program's positive impact on youth throughout Southeastern Pennsylvania. Today, Mr. Lynch continues to be active in the Police Academy, as well as the area's Boy Scouts troop, where he serves as a mentor to young scouts so they may contribute to their community just as he has throughout his career and beyond.

I thank Frederick M. Lynch for his service to the United States. Through his time in the military, to his many contributions in his local community, his commitment to be a positive influence for others has been unwavering and invaluable.

VETERANS APPRENTICESHIP AND  
LABOR OPPORTUNITY REFORM  
ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 2017*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 3949, the Veterans Apprenticeship and Labor Opportunity Reform (VALOR) Act. H.R. 3949 aims to increase access to apprenticeship training programs for veterans.

Currently, apprenticeship programs are registered state-by-state, creating a cumbersome paper trail and bureaucratic barriers to opening new programs. This legislation aims to streamline this registration process to ensure that veterans have access to as many apprenticeship training programs as possible.

It is crucial that returning veterans have the skills to join the workforce, and apprenticeship programs are a great way to ensure that these